

THE REHEARSAL.

1. Mr. De Foe's Attempt to Prove a Contradiction.
2. What he means by *Material*.
3. It is not only *Material*, but *Necessary* for the *Whiggs* to shew the *Time* when there was no *Government* in the *World*. Their whole *Cause* depends upon it.
4. The Reason why, Probably speaking, the *Notion* of *Government* or of *Property* had never come into the Head of *Mankind*, if it had not been *Instituted* by *God*.
5. Why we now think otherwise.
6. However the *Fact* is *Un-Deniable*, That *God* did first *Institute Government* among *Men*. And that it was *None* of their *Invention*.
7. The *Proof* Mr. De Foe brings to shew the *Time* when *People* were without *Government*. Which himself, in the same *Place*, owns to be a *Contradiction*.

WEDNESDAY, August 7th 1706.

(1.) Country-man. **H**OW wou'd you set about, Master, to prove a Contradiction.

Rehearsal. None of Common Sense wou'd set about it.

Country-m. Have a Care, Master, you'll make Mr. De Foe Angry! He'll say, you do not Treat him as a Gentleman! For this which you think Impossible he has done! You will find it in his Review of the 13th last Month, Vol. 3. N. 84. p. 333. Where Repeating a Question you Asked him, When there was a Time, that People were without any Government? Which first (says he) is a Contradiction, and Secondly, is a thing I never Alleg'd, nor is it at all Material here—

(2.) Rehears. By Material here he only means very Hard to Answer. For otherwise it is most Material. It is a Plain and Evident Consequence, That if People were the Original of Government, there must have been a Time when there was no Government, that is, before the first Erection of Government by the People.

(3.) These men say, That Government was the Invention of the People, for their own Convenience; arising from the Experience they had found of the Mischiefs in their Natural and Independent state. It must have taken some Time then to Gain this Experience. And if Government was an Invention of Men, it was not Invented before it was Invented. And there was no Government before it was Invented. Therefore there must have been a Time when there was no Government among Men. And it is not only very Material, but even Necessary for those who support this Hypothesis, to shew that Time. Because it is Deny'd by those who Assert the Jure Divino Doctrin. And they Undertake to shew, That it was never so in Fact. And there-

fore they have Deduc'd Government from Adam, and all the way Down to this Day. They Appeal to Fact on their side, as Attested and Recorded in the Holy Scriptures of God. And they Absolutely Deny the Fact of Government being set up by the People, they say it is a meer Invention and Chimera, and cannot be shew'd by any History or Authority in the World. This makes them Ask the Time when Government BEGAN among Men, and Consequently the Time before that, when there was no Government. And to say, as Mr. De Foe here, That this is not Material, is a total giving up of the Question, and shewing, That they have Nothing to say! They set up a Dream against all the Fact and Authority in the World, even of the Scriptures themselves!

(4.) I am of Opinion that if God had not Instituted Government at the Beginning, it had never come into the Head of any Man to set it up. The Notion or Thought of that thing call'd Government had never been. And no Necessity or Inconvenience cou'd have Introduced it. Every Man wou'd have Secur'd himself, the best he cou'd, from the Violence of others, as it is among the Birds and Beasts. And if Mankind had, like them, been Created in Multitudes, and Independent of Each other, they had Liv'd like them, and the World wou'd have been one General Common for them all. There had been no such thing as Property to any Particular exclusive of the Rest, for that is Built upon Authority, as I have shew'd in my last. And if any one had offer'd to Inclose any Part of the General Common to Himself, whether he came First or Last to it, it might have been Constru'd a Breach of the Right of the Common, and the Rest had as Good Right to Dis-Possess him, as he had to Enclose upon his own Head.

(5.) But

(5.) But there has been always *Government* and *Authority*, and *Property* Grounded upon that, from the *Beginning*. And *Mankind* have all along been fully Possess'd of the *Notion* of *Government*. And therefore *Fancy* they cou'd have found it out of *Themselves*, tho' it had never been *Reveal'd* to them. And now set *Themselves* up as the *Inventors* and *Original* of *Government*! But as no *Method* cou'd Possibly be found out whereby every *Individual*, under no *Government* or *Authority*, cou'd give his *Vote*; besides the new *Difficulty* of *Obliging* their *Posterities*; (of which I spoke in my Last) And that no *Obligation* as to *Conscience* cou'd thence be Founded to any *Government*, every *Man* having the same *Natural Right* to *Refract* his *Consent*, as to *Give* it, unless we will *Debarr* Men from *Second Thoughts*, and *Considering* better of things: I say that notwithstanding of all these *Points* (on which I have largely *Insisted* before) I still *Question* whether the *Notion* of *Government* had ever enter'd into the *Head* of any *Man* in the *World*, if *God* had not *Instituted* it at the *Beginning*. How shou'd I *Fancy* that so many *Thousand* Men shou'd give up their *Lives* and *Liberties* to the *Arbitrary Disposal* of any? As it must be in all *Governments*, of what *Sort* or *Kind* soever. And wou'd not every *Man* think *Himself* as fit to be *Entrusted* with this *Power* as *Another*? But I believe the *Notion* of any such *Power* at all had never come into their *Heads*, they saw no *Example* of it among their fellow *Creatures*, and wou'd have thought they had been *Ordain'd* to *Live* as they saw it among them.

(6.) *Country-m.* Whether it wou'd have been so or not is not *Material*; Since we find the *Fact* plain otherwise, That *Government* was *Instituted* of *God* at the *Beginning*, and did not come from the *Vote* or *Consent* of the *People*. For it was *Instituted* before any *Man* or *Woman* was *Born* in the *World*. It was not left to their *Invention*. *GOD* *Instituted* *GOVERNMENT* betwixt *Adam* and *Eve*, gave Him the *Dominion* over Her, and Commanded Her to be *Subjeet* unto Him. She was *Deduc'd* out of Him, and made as an *Help meet* for Him. No *Wife* ever since had such *Tyes* of *Subjection* from *Nature* and *Reason*. But *God* wou'd not leave it there. These might have been *Disputed*. Therefore *God* interposes His own *Positive Institution*. And that *Ends* all *Controversies*. This was the first *Invention* of *Government* among *Mankind*. And it was not the *Invention* either of *Adam* or *Eve*, but of *God* Himself. And whether they or any others wou'd have found it out, may be, as you say, a great *Question*. But however it is *Plain* they did not find it out, but that it was the *Positive Institution* of *God*. And you have *Deduc'd* it from that *Day* to this, through all the *Posterities* of *Adam*. To which no one *Word* has been *Answer'd*, and *De Foe* Confesses |

plainly, That he will not Enter upon the *Argument* with you, which is giving up the whole *Cause*. And must Appear so to any *Man* of *Common Sense*. Was ever a *Cause* so *Expos'd* before? They have not a *Word* to say for themselves. And this is what he calls your *Bullying* him, when you *Provok'd* him to *Answer*, and he has no *Mind* to't!

(7.) But *Master* will you hear his *Argument* to *Prove* what himself owns to be a *Contradiction*, that is, That there was a *Time* when *People* were without any *Government*. This he owns to be a *Contradiction*. And presently Adds, p. 333. To prove when *People* were without *Government* the *Scripture* is plain in it. When there was no *King* in *Israel*, but every *Man* did what was *Right* in his own *Eyes*.

Rehears. Is Mr. *De Foe* then come at last to think that there can be no *Government* where there is not a *King*? Else what becomes of his *Argument*?

But in the next place, suppose *Government* shou'd be lost for a time among one *Set* of *People*, what is this to the *World* and to *Mankind*? For our *Enquiry* is about the *Beginning* of *Government* in the *World*. And if it Came *First* from the *People*, then there must have been a *Time* when there was no *Government* at all in the *World*, or any *Part* of it. Which our *Popular Orators* must shew, or Shamefully *Quit* their *Cause*. But they can *Prove* *Contradictions*!

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